

33. (Twice amended) An oil from water separator comprising:

an oil disengagement chamber adapted to receive an oil and water mixture and retain it for a sufficient time in a relatively undisturbed state whereby oil in the mixture floats to the top of the mixture resulting in a substantially oil free volume of water having a layer of oil derived from said oil and water mixture floating on the surface thereof, said oil disengagement chamber partially separated from an effluent water chamber by an under flow baffle which ducts said substantially oil free volume of water to said effluent water chamber, the oil disengagement chamber having a low liquid level which is higher than the under flow baffle, the outflow of said substantially oil free volume of water from said effluent water chamber being limited by flow retarding means to a rate of outflow which is a function of the head of the liquid in said effluent water chamber;

wherein during operation, the level of said oil and water mixture will rise from a chamber low liquid level up to a higher liquid level and then return to said chamber low liquid level, thereby defining an oil and water mixture active lag capacity in said oil disengagement chamber, such that, for a predefined range of inflows into said oil disengagement chamber, outflow from said effluent water chamber will contain a proportion of oil in water substantially below a predefined limit.

40. (Twice amended) An oil from water separation system comprising:

an oil disengagement chamber having an accumulation volume defined between a chamber high liquid level and a chamber low liquid level; said accumulation volume caused to exit from said chamber on attainment of said chamber high liquid level;

wherein during operation, the level of said oil and water mixture will rise from said chamber low liquid level up to said chamber high liquid level and then return to said chamber low liquid level, thereby defining an oil and water mixture active lag capacity in said oil disengagement chamber between said chamber high liquid level and said chamber low liquid level, such that, for a predefined range of inflows into said oil disengagement chamber, outflow from said system will contain a proportion of oil in water substantially below a predefined limit.

42. (Twice amended) An oil from water separator comprising:

an oil disengagement chamber adapted to receive an oil and water mixture and retain it for a sufficient time in a relatively undisturbed state whereby oil in the mixture floats to the top of the mixture resulting in a substantially oil free volume of water having a layer of oil derived from said oil and water mixture floating on the surface thereof, and means for retarding outflow from said chamber until said mixture reaches a predetermined chamber high liquid level whereupon said substantially oil free volume of water is caused to exit said chamber;

wherein during operation, the level of said oil and water mixture will rise from said chamber low liquid level up to a higher liquid level and then return to said chamber low liquid level thereby defining an oil and water mixture active lag capacity in said oil disengagement chamber, such that, for a predefined range of inflows into said oil disengagement chamber, outflow from said separator will contain a proportion of oil in water substantially below a predefined limit.

52. (Twice amended) An oil from water separator comprising:

an oil disengagement chamber adapted to receive an oil and water mixture and retain it for an extended time in a relatively undisturbed state whereby oil in the mixture floats to the top of the mixture resulting in a substantially oil free volume of water having a layer of oil derived from said oil and water mixture floating on the surface thereof, outflow from said chamber being controlled in a predetermined way by flow retarding means;

wherein during operation, the level of said oil and water mixture will rise from said chamber low liquid level up to a higher liquid level and then return to said chamber low liquid level thereby defining an oil and water mixture active lag capacity in said oil disengagement chamber, such that, for a predefined range of inflows into said oil disengagement chamber, outflow from said separator will contain a proportion of oil in water substantially below a predefined limit.

53. (Twice amended) An oil from water separator comprising:

an oil disengagement chamber adapted to receive an oil and water mixture and retain it for a sufficient time in a relatively undisturbed state whereby oil in the mixture

floats to the top of the mixture resulting in a substantially oil free volume of water having a layer of oil derived from said oil and water mixture floating on the surface thereof;

wherein outflow from said chamber is limited by flow retarding means to a predetermined function of the level of said oil and water mixture in said chamber; said oil disengagement chamber is partially separated from an effluent water chamber by an under flow baffle which ducts said substantially oil free volume of water to said effluent water chamber.

60. (Twice amended) A method of converting an oil from water separator which normally operates liquid full into an oil from water separator which has an oil disengagement chamber, said method comprising:

adapting said oil disengagement chamber to receive an oil and water mixture and retain it for a sufficient time in a relatively undisturbed state whereby oil in the mixture floats to the top of the mixture resulting in a substantially oil free volume of water having a layer of oil derived from said oil and water mixture floating on the surface thereof, the oil disengagement chamber being partially separated from an effluent water chamber by an under flow baffle which ducts the substantially oil free volume of water to the effluent water chamber, the oil disengagement chamber having a low liquid level which is higher than the under flow baffle; and

installing a flow retarding device in or in association with a weir wall of the decant separator so that a rate of outflow of the substantially oil free volume of water is controlled as a function of the head of the liquid in the effluent water chamber.

REMARKS

In the Office Communication mailed October 2, 2002 (Paper No. 14), the Examiner stated that the Amendment filed on June 25, 2002 was non-responsive because it failed to specifically point out how the language of the independent claims distinguishes the Applicant's invention from the cited reference(s). By this Supplemental Response, the Applicant points out the distinguishing features as recited in the pending claims. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner refer to the Amendment filed on June 25, 2002 ("Amendment").